Telephone bills of officers of CSIR

1820 SHRI C.O. POULOSE: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of bill paid towards the office telephones of Director General, Joint Secretary, Officer on Special Duty of CSIR and the Directors of each Laboratory/Institute of CSIR during the period 1996—99, year-wise;

(b) the amount of bill paid towards the residential, official telephones of Director General, Joint Secretary and the Directors of each Laboratory/Institute of CSIR during the same period, year-wise; and

(c) the amount of budget allocation and the actual amount paid towards the telephone facility of each Laboratory/Institute of CSIR and the CSIR (HQ) during the same period, year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) and (b) Information regarding bill paid towards the office and residential telephones of the Directors of all the CSIR national Labs./Instts. during the period 1996—99, year-wise, is as per Annexure [*See* appendix 189, Annexure No. 51] Information regarding the bill paid towards the office and residential telephones of Director General, Joint Secretary and Officer on Special Duty, CSIR, during the period 1996—99, year-wise, is as per Annexure [*See* Appendix 189, Annexure No. 51]

(c) No specific budget allocation for payment of telephone bills is made by CSIR either in respect of National Labs./Instts. or CSIR Head Quarters. Expenditure incurred on payment of telephone bills in both cases is a part of contingent expenditure provided in the allocation. While CSIR makes allocation under the head 'contingent expenditure', detailed allocation under different sub-heads of Contingent Expenditure, including expenditure incurred on account of payment of telephone bills, is made at the Laboratory/Institute level and CSIR Head Quarters locally.

Development of Sarika Aeroplane

†1821. SHRI SWARAJ KAUSHAL: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

†Original Notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(a) whether the Indian Institute of Science has developed an aeroplane called Sarika, for surveying the bordering areas and areas affected by natural calamities;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the estimated cost for the development of said aeroplane; and

(d) by when the aeroplane is expected to be put to use?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) and (b) The National Aerospace Laboratories (NAL) Bangalore a constitutent unit of CSIR and not Indian Institute of Science has taken up a project for the design, fabrication and air-worthiness testing of a light transport aircraft named SARAS and not Sarika. It would be multi-role aircraft with applications among others for coast guard, air ambulance, hinterland reach etc.

(c) and (d) The total envisaged approved cost for the project is Rs. 131.38 crore and the project duration is 3-1/2 years from June, 1999. SARAS is envisaged to be ready for operational use by 2004.

Promotion under merit assessment scheme in CSIR

1822. SHRI A. VIJAYA RAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the merit Assessment Scheme adopted in the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) is applicable to Group III employees working in Institutes/ Laboratories of CSIR; and

(b) if so, the names, qualifications, grade and assessment period of Group III employees promoted under Merit Assessment Scheme in CSIR Laboratories during the last five years, year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) and (b) Yes sir, the Merit Assessment Scheme was made applicable to the CSIR S&T employees belonging to Group IV and in Group III from Grade III(3) to III(6), only who were engaged in R&D activities and possessed the entry level qualifications of Group IV. This provision of the scheme has been